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TO: AD/WR 26 April 1957

THRU: Chief, D/S
Chief, St/PR
Chief, E
Chief, St/C

FROM: Chief S/TR

SUBJECT: Request for Information on USSR Inland Waterways [redacted] 25X1A2g

25X1A9a

1. A memorandum from [redacted] Chief, RAM/SE requests that intelligence on the following subject concerned with the USSR inland waterways be prepared for [redacted] 25X1X7

a. The approximate breakdown in tons of the cargo transiting these waterways.

b. The times during which these waterways are navigable.

c. The special precautions taken, if any, to prevent the formation of ice at the various head locks and in the harbors, i.e., the use of compressed air or heated water from factories or power stations.

2. Attached is a statement submitting intelligence on 1. a. and b., above. It was prepared without undue effort on our part. No intelligence on 1.c., above, is readily available. To respond to this query would require a considerable research effort on our part.

3. This matter has been coordinated with S/CS and D/C.

25X1A9a
[redacted]

25X1A9a [redacted]

Distribution:
Original and 1 - Addressee
1 - Chief, D/S
1 - Chief, St/PR
1 - Chief, E
1 - Chief, St/C
2 - Chief, S/TR

25X1A9a CER/S/TR/[redacted]:aj/4657 (25 April 1957)

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10 April 1957

Selected Intelligence on USSR Inland Waterways

1. Volume of Cargo Movements on Soviet Inland Waterways
(Millions of tons)

		1955	1956*
a.	Oil Production	16.5	17.9
b.	Rafted Timber	64.0	68.0
c.	Dry Cargo		
	(1) Lumber Carried by Ship	17.5	19.1
	(2) Grain	8.5	9.3
	(3) Coal	5.8	6.0
	(4) Salt	2.4	2.5
	(5) Building Material	14.0	16.0
	(6) Other Cargo	11.4	14.0
	Total	139.1	153.8

* Based on plan figure, actual volume equalled 98 percent.

2. Season of Navigability

PART 1 - EUROPEAN USSR

I. BALTIC-WHITE SEA WATERWAY

A. Neva River

Navigable season: Early May to late November

B. Lake Ladoga

Navigable season: Late March to October

C. Lake Ladoga Side Canal

Navigable season: May to November

D. Svir River

Navigable season: April to November

E. Lake Onega

Navigable season: Middle of May to November

F. Stalin Canal

Navigable season: May to October

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II. [redacted]

A. Upper Sida Canal

Navigable season: April to November

B. Vyazma River

Navigable season: Unknown

C. Marinsk Canal

Navigable season: May to November

D. Kovsha River

Navigable season: May to November

E. Belomorsko-Baltiyskiy Sida Canal

Navigable season: April to November

F. Shekhona River

Navigable season: April to November

G. Rybinsk Reservoir

Navigable season: Unknown

III. [redacted]

Navigable season: April to November

IV. [redacted]

A. Volga River

Navigable season: April to November

B. Kama River

Navigable season: April to October

C. Moscow - Don System

1. Don River (Gorkiy to south of the Moscow)

Navigable season: April to November

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2. Nemcon River

Navigable season: April to November

B. Volga-Don Canal

Navigable season: Late March to early December

C. Don and Northern Donets Rivers

1. Don River

Navigable season: Early April to early December

2. Northern Donets River:

Navigable season: Mid-March to early December

V. OTHER WATERWAY SYSTEMS

A. Western Dvina River

Navigable season: Early April to end of November

B. Dnepr River

Navigable season: Exact period unknown

C. Dnepr-Bug Canal System

Navigable season: March to December

D. Dniestr River

Navigable season: Early March to late December

E. Northern Dvina-Sukhona System

1. Northern Dvina River (Arkhangelsk to Sukhona River)

Navigable season: May to October

2. Sukhona River (to Lake Kubenskoye)

Navigable season: May to November

3. Lake Kubenskoye (to North Dvina Canal)

Navigable season: May to November

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4. Northern Dvina Canal (to Onezsoye at Kirillov)

Navigable season: Mid-April to mid-October

PART 2 - SIBERIA

I. OB-IRTYSH SYSTEM

A. Ob River

Navigable seasons: The normal navigable seasons at various points in the river are as follows:

Observation Pt.		Aver. No. of Days
Biysk	End April - End October	185
Barnaul	End April - End October	185
Novosibirsk	Early May - End October	176
Tom River Mouth	Early May - Late October	171
Novosk	Mid May - Late October	166
Surgut	Late May - Late October	154
Salekhard	Early June - Mid October	137

B. Irtysh River

Navigable season: Average 180 days (August to October)

C. Tom River

Navigable season: The river is navigable from its mouth to the Abamelevskiy village, a distance of 370 miles. During the dry season it can be used only as far as Tomsk.

II. YENISEY BASIN SYSTEM

A. Yenisey River

Navigable season: November to late April

B. Angara River

Navigable season: The upper reach between Irkutsk and Baratek freezes over in late December and breaks up in April. Navigation is generally hazardous because of the combination of swift currents, stony bed, and rocky banks. Weather conditions are also unfavorable. The lower reach from Bratsk to the mouth freezes over in November and thaws in mid-May. As in the upper reach there are many treacherous rapids, currents and shallows.

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C. Lake Baikal

Navigable season: Because of its great depth and strong prevailing winds, Baikal freezes over very gradually, generally in late December or early January. The southern part of the lake is navigable for 240 days and the northern part two weeks less. Navigation is so seriously hindered by violent gales in the latter part of the season that the period of safe navigation is not greater than 150 days. Thick fogs also hinder navigation between May and August.

D. Selenga River

Navigable season: The navigation period varies from 175 to 200 days, from April until late October or early November.

III. LENA RIVER

Navigable season: The delta channels are extremely variable, but the main channel which begins at Bykovskiy is regularly navigated. Thawing begins in late May and is accompanied by spring floods which are aggravated by ice jams and drifting ice. Freezing usually occurs in mid-October. The navigable season from Yakutsk to Kirensk extends from mid-May to late October.

IV. KOLYMA RIVER

Navigable season: June to later September

V. AMUR RIVER

Navigable season: May to November

PART 3 - CENTRAL ASIA

I. ARAL SEA - AMU-DARYA WATERWAY

A. Aral Sea

Navigable season: Usually the lake freezes over only in its northeastern quarter, but during severe winters the entire surface may be frozen. Ice forms in December and melts during late April.

B. Amu-Darya River

Navigable season: Late February to late December

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II. [redacted]

Navigable reaches Approximately 250 miles

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